

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 EB-07 EURE-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 TRSE-00 COME-00
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P R 071150Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7707

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

ALL EC CAPITALS 0258

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 36091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, YU

SUBJ: GISCARD IN YUGOSLAVIA

1. SUMMARY: PRINCIPAL OBJECT OF GISCARD'S STATE VISIT
TO YUGOSLAVIA, THE FIRST EVER BY A FRENCH PRESIDENT,
IS TO REFLECT INTEREST IN YUGOLSAVIA'S STABILITY AND
INDEPENDENCE. IN SPITE OF LARGE FRENCH DELEGATION NO
MAJOR CONCRETE AGREEMENTS LIKELY TO FLOW
FROM VISIT. GOF HAS BEEN RESISTING VARIOUS MINOR
YUGOSLAV "OFFENSIVES" IN NEGOTIATING COMMUNIQUE
AIMED AT PLAYING UP CONCEPTS LIKE NON-ALIGNMENT.
WHILE NOT SERIOUS, ARGUMENTS COULD NOT BE TIDIED UP
IN ALL INSTANCES BEFORE THE VISIT. FEW POINTS IN TEXT
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THEREFORE STILL BEING WORKED ON BY ANDREANI IN BELGRADE

END SUMMARY.

2. QUAIS CHIEF EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DE CALBIAC TELLS US THAT GISCARD'S STATE VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, DECEMBER 6-7, THE FIRST EVER BY A FRENCH PRESIDENT, IS ESSENTIALLY INTENDED AS A SYMBOLIC DEMONSTRATION OF PARIS INTEREST IN BELGRADE'S CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY. BY VIRTUE OF ITS POSTPONEMENT, DUE TO TITO'S ILL HEALTH, FROM SEPTEMBER 15 TO A SHORT TIME AFTER BRESHNEV'S RECENT VISIT, THIS SYMBOLISM HAS, IF ANYTHING, BEEN ENHANCED. IT IS ALSO BEING NURTURED BY LARGE SIZE OF FRENCH DELEGATION, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD, ASSISTED BY POLITICAL DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE AND EUROPEAN DIRECTOR ANDREANI; FRANCOISE GIROUD, SECSTATE FOR CULTURE; ANDRE ROSSI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN COMMERCE, YVES CANAC, ASST. SECRETARY GENERAL AT ELYSEE; AND OTHERS. WHILE THIS BEVY OF FRENCH NOTABLES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE, OR REINFORCE CONTACTS WITH THEIR YUGOSLAV COUNTERPARTS, AND SOME WILL HAVE OWN MEETINGS, EXTENSIVE CEREMONIAL AND SHORT DURATION OF VISIT IN FACT WILL NOT ALLOW MUCH TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

3. WHILE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF FRENCH INTEREST IN YUGOSLAV STABILITY INHERENT IN VISIT--WHICH MARKS HIGHEST LEVEL OF FRENCH ATTENTION AFTER YEARS OF TESTINESS OVER GOY ATTITUDES ON VIETNAM, ALGERIA, AND OTHER THEMES OBNOXIOUS TO DEGAULLE AND POMPIDOU--IDEA WILL ALSO BE OBLIQUELY SPELLED OUT IN COMMUNIQUE. YUGOSLAVS WANTED CLEAR LANGUAGE THIS POINT AND, IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, ASKED FOR A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO "COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ARMAMENTS." FRENCH PRESSED FOR SOMETHING SUBSTANTIALLY SHORT OF A TEXT THAT COULD BE READ AS A COMMITMENT, AND REFUSED TO MENTION ARMS SALES OR COOPERATION AT ALL. EVEN SO, DRAFT COMMUNIQUE PASSAGE READ TO US CONTAINS REFERENCE ALONG THE LINES THAT THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF FRANCE'S AND YUGOSLAVIA'S SECURITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY TO THAT OF EUROPE AS A WHOLE. WE HAVE JUST NOTED ON FRENCH TV
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THAT GISCARD HAS ALSO INCLUDED STATEMENT SIMILAR IN SPIRIT IN BELGRADE INTERVIEW. QUAIS WAS NOT CERTAIN TO WHAT EXTENT THIS MESSAGE WOULD ALSO BE REITERATED IN HIS ADDRESS AT BELGRADE UNIVERSITY, A SPEECH PRIMARILY DEDICATED TO NORTH-SOUTH AND THIRD WORLD ISSUES, TO SHOW THAT OTHERS BESIDES TITO ARE INTERESTED AS WELL IN THESE FIELDS. QUAIS SPECULATES GISCARD MAY ALSO USE IT TO PUSH PERSONAL IDEAS ON NORTH-SOUTH

DIALOGUE, NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, ETC., BUT WAS NOT GIVEN TEXT. AS FOR ARMS SALES AS SUCH, QUAI BELIEVES THAT ISSUES REMAIN DORMANT, ABOUT WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN FOR LAST SIX MONTHS, BUT ADMITS IT MAY NOT BE WELL-INFORMED.

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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4. PROBLEMS IN NEGOTIATING COMMUNIQUE WERE FOCUSED PRIMARILY, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, IN FIRST SECTION DEALING IN POLITICAL VERITIES. ALTHOUGH QUAI HAD HOPED THAT COMMUNIQUE TEXT, NEGOTIATED LAST SUMMER

FOR GISCARD VISIT ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 15 WOULD STAY PUT, DE CALBIAC REGRETFULLY EXPLAINED THAT YUGOSLAVS RECENTLY RETURNED TO FRAY WITH SEVERAL NEW "OFFENSIVES." PREDICTABLY, THEIR CENTRAL THRUST WAS AIMED AT INCLUSION OBLIQUE ENDORSEMENT OF "NON-ALIGNMENT." WHILE FRENCH REMAIN READY TO FAVOR NON-BLOC APPROACH THEY FINALLY HAD TO INFORM GOY BLUNTLY THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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GOF DID NOT MIND IF YUGOSLAVS WANTED TO DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AS "NON-ALIGNED" IN EUROPE IN COMMUNIQUE, BUT THAT IDEA OF "NON-ALIGNMENT" AS SUCH COULD NOT APPEAR. YUGOSLAVS ALSO SHOWED NERVE IN ASKING FOR REFERENCE TO "DECOLONIZATION" WHICH FRENCH REJECTED. OTHER, LESS NEURALGIC DOCTRINAL FORMULATIONS DEAL WITH STANDARD THEMSES OF FRIENDSHIP AMONG PEOPLE, SOLIDARITY ANDDETENTE. EVEN SO, FINAL TOUCHES SEVERAL OF THESE TEXTS ARE STILL BEING WORKED ON BY ANDREANI AND HIS COUNTERPART IN BELGRADE, SINCE THEY COULD NOT BE RESOLVED BEFORE.

5. SECOND SECTION OF COMMUNIQUE WILL DEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, NOTABLY THE MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, LEBANON, CSCE, AND THE MEDITERRANEAN, DISARMAMENT AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. ONE ISSUE AROSE OVER TREATMENT OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE IN COMMUNIQUE. ANOTHER PREDICTABLE DIFFERENCE APPEARED IN TREATMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN, IN CONTEXT BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE. GOY PUSHED FOR MALTESE THESES THAT US AND USSR FORCES SHOULD LEAVE MED AS "LAKE OF PEACE" AND THAT MEDITERRANEAN STATES SHOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AT BELGRADE. FRENCH CUT BACK DRAFT TO ANODYNE HOPES FOR COOPERATION AMONG MEDITERRANEAN STATES ACCORDING TO CSCE PRINCIPLES. FRENCH ALSO INSISTED, WITH REGARD TO PARTICIPATION OF MEDITERRANEAN STATES, THAT SAME MODEST PATTERN BE FOLLOWED AS IN HELSINKI AND GENEVA PHASES OF CSCE.

6. ON PURELY BILATERAL SIDE TO BE DEALT WITH IN THIRD SECTION OF COMMUNIQUE. DE CALBIAC SAYS LITTLE OF IMPORTANCE WILL EMERGE. THERE IS TALK OF FAR-RANGING COOPERATION IN LONG LIST OF ECONOMIC FIELDS, BUT DE CALBIAC STRESSES THAT THESE ARE MOSTLY GENERALITIES WHICH CONCEAL THE FACT THAT FRANCE SELLS LESS TO YUGOSLAVIA THAN IT DOES TO NIGERIA. MOREOVER, PROBLEM REMAINS THAT FRENCH COMMERCIAL BANKERS CONTINUE TO BE "VERY RELUCTANT" TO EXTEND NEW CREDITS TO YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH THEY VIEW SKEPTICALLY AS HIGH-RISK PROPOSITION. PARTLY FOR THIS REASON DE CALBIAC ADMITS PRIVATELY THAT FRENCH HAVE TO AN EXTENT BEEN

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DRAGGING HEELS IN BRUSSELS DISCUSSIONS ON EC-CEMA PROJECT, A CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR RATHER ANGRILY DREW TO QUAI'S ATTENTION IN RECENT MEETING WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE.

7. AS FOR GISCARD'S PROGRAM IN BELGRADE, THE TRADITIONAL HUNT WITH TITO WAS PROPOSED, BUT, OF COURSE, DECLINED AFTER THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT WHICH BEFELL THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR A FEW WEEKS AGO.
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